

present position is inferior to what he is properly entitled to hold, once having been recognized as duly qualified, and enrolled into a legalized body. In no occupation are there more quacks than in architecture; and to destroy this set of men, who live upon the brains, the talent, the heart-breakings of the educated but poor or unassisted, I am sure a diploma is necessary. How many architects take pupils and send them out in the world after three or five years, almost as ignorant as they took them? and how many would dare to do this if they thought that the efficiency of their instruction would, at the end of that time, be tested by a legalized examination? In fine, everything seems to me to demand this innovation. It is to the interest of ourselves, and the public as well, that we should be incorporated into a legal profession, and that it should be done quickly.

J. B. WARING.

I have read with much satisfaction Mr. French's observations on the education of an architect, and the advantages that would and must arise from an establishment such as he proposes. At present, the young men of the day enjoy but few more advantages than they did fifty years ago. A young man is put into an architect's office (perhaps with a large premium) for six or seven years, and during that period he has little or no attention paid by the principal to his education as an architect, or to qualify him for one. He has seldom an opportunity of visiting buildings to study construction or the finishing of an edifice; he is left to draw out the orders, and find the best way of accomplishing this; he has seldom any explanation given, either in this or any other portion of the routine of business; and it is to be wondered at that, when he is out of his time, he knows so little? After he quits the office there is no institution open to him of an evening for practical instruction,—no general architectural library,—no collection of working models or drawings to refer to,—no models of buildings,—no practical experiments, or lectures in a lecture-room. It has hitherto been urged, and it cannot be too often repeated, that the Institute of the British Architects does not hold out sufficient encouragement, or combine sufficient advantages, for the rising generation. Till this is done, a young man must and would labour under great disadvantages in taking a diploma in architecture,—a point very desirable to render the profession what it ought to be, both respectable and efficient.

A. S.

HERTFORD GAOL-DRAINAGE.

WITH reference to a paragraph in our last number, headed, "Effect of Bad Drainage," mentioning the verdict of a jury which attributed the ravages of the cholera in Hertford County Gaol to the want of drainage there, and that the coroner had, in accordance with their request, drawn the attention of the justices to the fact,—we have received a letter from Mr. Thomas Smith, the architect, couched in terms which might have been more courteous, expressing astonishment that we "should be capable of publishing and adopting as our own opinion [which we did not do] the sapient notions of a country coroner's jury, without inquiring into facts;" and calling on us to reprint the following paragraph from the *Herts Mercury* of the 17th inst.—"In consequence of the letter addressed to the magistrates by the coroner, and forwarded to the Secretary of State, a careful investigation has been made by the inspector of prisons, the result of which is that no certain conclusion can be arrived at as to the cause of the disease. The drainage of the prison has been completely renewed since the cholera prevailed in January last, and Dr. Davies is decidedly of opinion that the drainage is not the cause of the recent attack. Every possible effort to improve the drainage of the gaol has been made for many years past; and we believe that further improvement is under consideration; but the difficulties in the way of making a perfect drainage (from local circumstances) is very great, and hitherto have been insurmountable."

The tone assumed by Mr. Smith in his letter was quite uncalled for, and would have justified its consignment to the paper basket. The paragraph, from a local

informant, simply mentioned an occurrence, confirmed in every particular by Mr. Smith himself, and so far from desiring to be "guilty of the bad taste of indirectly casting a stigma on him," whom we did not mention or refer to in the slightest degree, or indeed on any person, we added a couple of lines showing we could scarcely reconcile the verdict with our impression that improvements had recently been made in the prison. We should be the last to give currency to an erroneous statement affecting any architect, but it is not usually necessary to inquire into the correctness of the verdict of a jury before publishing it. We should be quite satisfied if all architects had the same consideration for us that we have for them.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

A NEW dock (the Sidon) has just been completed and opened at Portsmouth. It is the seventh in the establishment, and constitutes an arm of the new basin for steamers. Its length is 305 feet, breadth of entrance 80 feet, depth 32 feet, containing 21 feet of water at lowest spring tide. The materials used in its construction are stated by a Hampshire contemporary to have comprised 52,800 cubic feet of beech timber; 20,800 cubic feet of Purbeck stone, 16,660 tons of shingle; 10,300 cubic feet of Portland stone; 2,954,300 bricks; 119,960 cubic feet of granite; 1,018 cwt. of iron, in pile shoes, &c. The actual cost of the dock is 67,000*l.* The inlet docks (other arms of the great basin, opposite the Sidon dock), now in part built, also under Mr. Rolit's contract, and for which an immense amount of material is on the ground, will be proceeded with next year.—The visiting justices of the county of Worcester have received tenders for erecting their pauper lunatic asylum. They have accepted the estimate of Mr. Thos. Haines, whose tender was 23,500*l.*—The Bristol iron-works have been sold piecemeal by auction. The sale commenced on 22nd ult., and was to conclude on Friday. The breaking up of these extensive works commenced with the sale of tools and materials, in which were many of the most improved machines by Nasmyth, Fairbairn, Hicks, Whitworth, Fox, Morgan, Haley, Sharp, Roberts, and other makers; then followed the machinery of the old erecting-shop, forge-shop fitted with steam-engines, lift-hammers, anvils, &c., smiths' shops, anchor-smiths' shops, brass foundry, copper-smiths' shops, millwrights' shop, saw-mills, iron-foundry, &c. The sale throughout, according to the *Bristol Journal*, has been well attended by buyers from most of the engineering firms in Great Britain and the continent, and the lots have been well contested, and brought in most cases a fair value. The freehold and premises were sold for 11,470*l.*—Some improvements are in progress at Buxton, particularly a pile of buildings to be called "Winter-place," with first class hotel and shops, forming a frontage of 150 feet, on the site of the old Angel Inn and other premises. Mr. Worth, of Sheffield, supplied the design.—It is intended to erect a memorial window in Chester Cathedral in honour of the late Mr. G. E. Anson, son of the Dean of Chester.—At the Liverpool Police Court, lately, a builder, Mr. William Clegg, appeared in an information preferred against him by Mr. Rushton, the building surveyor, for erecting a store-room to premises occupied as an eating-house, in Prison's-row, in contravention of the Act of Parliament, and without notice given to the surveyor. The defendant excused himself by saying that his men erected the building, and he was ignorant of it until it was completed. The surveyor said, that on former occasions the defendant blamed his men. The place in question was built over the privies and ash-pits. Mr. Rushton fined the defendant 5*l.*, adding that no man permitted his servants to work at places and not know what they were doing. The erection will be taken down.—Trinity Church, Runcorn, has been re-opened after its enlargement and other improvement. A new chancel and a stained glass window have been added, and the pews extended and improved, with 100 additional sittings, or 900 in all. The ceiling has been removed, the roof timbers dressed and stained, and the spars plastered.

—The new church of St. Mark, Ocker-hill, Tipton, was consecrated on Tuesday week. It will accommodate 640 persons. The windows are filled with stained glass, by Messrs. Chance, of Birmingham. The font is of Caen stone, by Mr. Peter Hollins, of Birmingham. The chancel is floored with Minton's encaustic tiles. This church was erected by grants from the Lichfield Diocesan Church Extension Society. The contractor was Mr. J. E. Hall, of Nottingham. In the original design a spire surmounts the building, but the funds are short 250*l.*, even without this addition.—The first stone of a new national school for the labouring classes was laid at Spofforth, on Wednesday week. The cost will be about 650*l.*, of which Colonel Wyndham has presented 400*l.*, besides the site. The plan was supplied by Mr. Parsons, of Harewood.—About 2,500*l.* have been subscribed for the erection of a new church at Ambleside, to cost about 4,000*l.*, exclusive of east window, organ, &c. Wordsworth has contributed 30*l.*, Lady Le Fleming 500*l.*, and Mr. Benson, the clergyman (who has already built a parsonage), 1,000*l.* more.—The extension of the Leith pier, and the construction of the spacious new harbour, are in active progress, together with a line of railway to meet the low-water pier, whence the largest steamers will sail at all times of tide.

THE PARIS AND STRASBURG RAILWAY STATION.

CANNOT you give us the name of the architect of the new railway station at Paris, shown in a recent number? As to that design, there is something striking and good in it; but a little more study in working out the ideas, and working up the composition, would have rendered the good a great deal better, if only by weeding out some defects, among which is the intolerably gross solecism and palpable absurdity of a balustrade placed upon the sloping sides of a gable or roof. If the architect has "thought for himself" in other respects, he was surely not thinking at all when he did that,—for, besides being an absurdity, it is such a deformity also, that it discredits his taste no less than his judgment. The plan being a mere diagram, it is impossible to understand from it how the central portico or arcade is disposed internally, and whether there are other arches and columns behind those seen in front. Another matter which requires explanation is the large arch,—it not being apparent from the engraving whether it forms a semi-dome within, or a semi-cylindrical vault.

Z.

. We believe that the architect of the station is Mons. Duquesneit. There are other arches and columns behind those seen in front. The large arch is simply in the thickness of the front wall. The building has an iron roof, of which we shall probably speak again. The zinc covering was laid by the Vieille Montagne Zinc Mining Company.

PARSONAGE HOUSES.

AT a meeting of the Oxford Architectural Society held last week, Mr. J. Billing read a paper on "Parsonage Houses," of which the following is a summary:—The parsonage should be within view of the church, and in strict accordance with those feelings which its consecrated character calls forth. Old English domestic architecture, with its high-pitched roofs and substantial character, is best suited to fulfil this condition: it is also capable of being adapted to the peculiar materials of the respective localities, which should always be made use of if possible, for economy and to avoid singularity, at the same time this style need not have the appearance of poverty. There are but few early examples of parsonage houses, for until the Reformation, the clergy lived mostly in abbeys and other religious houses; hence no trace is found of isolated residences, erected prior to that period, which will accord with the parsonage of the present day. The half-timbered houses at first prevailed from motives of economy, but their unsustained character was soon discovered, and stone gradually came into re-use, but less worked than in the previous collegiate style, which builders would naturally imitate.